

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S SPEECH TO CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB

REF: CAPE TOWN 0914,

SUMMARY: IN SPEECH TO CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB NIGHT OF JUNE 4, FOREIGN MINISTER "PIK" BOTHA SUMMARIZED SAG POLICIES ON RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL STRUCTURE, DEVOTING MOST OF SPEECH TO THE LATTER. CONTINUING A THEME THAT SAG HAS BEEN STRESSING RECENT DAYS (REFTEL), BOTHA ACCUSED US OF "PULLING RUG OUT FROM UNDER" THOSE IN SOUTH AFRICA WHO WANTED CHANGE WITH ITS "DEMAND FOR ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE IN ONE POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENTITY." BOTHA CHALLENGED THOSE WHO ARGUED THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT DID NOT CONSTITUTE "DEMAND" FOR ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE, SAYING USG HAD HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO RETRACT OR CLARIFY. ACCUSING US OF APPLYING "SELECTIVE MORALITY" HE QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL WHICH SAID PRESIDENT CARTER'S AFRICAN POLICY BASED ON GUILT OVER RACISM IN US. IN SOMEWHAT SURPRISING ADMISSION,

BOTHA SAID REASONABLE PEOPLE IN US WERE PREPARED TO LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO EXPLANATION OF SAG POLICIES, INCLUDING THE HOMELANDS, BUT WHEN SHOWN THE MAP OF THE HOMELANDS "THEIR FACES FELL." END SUMMARY

1. RHODESIA - BOTHA SAID SMITH HAD COMPLIED "100 PERCENT" WITH KISSINGER'S 5-POINT PLAN AND THAT SAG BELIEVE IN HIS SINCERITY THEN AND NOW. BLACKS MUST EITHER AGREE ON CONSTITUTION FOR ORDERLY HAND OVER OF POWER OR MUST ELECT ONE LEADER WHO CAN SPEAK FOR ALL. IF USG BELIEVES IN HUMAN RIGHTS IT SHOULD USE ITS POWER TO STOP THOSE FACTIONS, "SUCH AS MUGABE" (SIC) WHO WANT VIOLENT, NOT PEACEFUL, CHANGE. AT VIENNA US HAD GIVEN "VEILED CREDIT" TO SAG FOR ITS EFFORTS BECAUSE "THE AMERICANS ARE STINGY WITH PRAISE FOR ANY ACHIEVEMENTS BUT THEIR OWN."

2. NAMIBIA - BOTHA SAID TURNHALLE PROPOSALS WERE NOT WHAT SAG WISHED; IT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED FRAGMENTATION INTO SELF-GOVERNING ETHNIC GROUPS. EVEN THOUGH TURNHALLE HAD ACHIEVED "MIRACLE" OF AGREEING TO INDEPENDENT UNITARY STATE WITHIN SHORT TIME AND WITH UN INVOLVEMENT IN ELECTIONS, WHICH WERE THE BASICS OF WHAT HAD BEEN DEMANDED FOR PAST 31 YEARS, WESTERN FIVE NOW SAID UN WOULD NOT BUY IT. "THIS MEANS IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT YOU DO, SOMETHING WILL ALWAYS BE FOUND AT LAST MOMENT THAT IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH." SAG WOULD NOT "PRESCRIBE" TO THE TERRITORY, HOWEVER, JUST AS IT WOULD NOT IMPOSE TRADE EMBARGO ON RHODESIA.

3. SOUTH AFRICA - WITHOUT MENTIONING IT BY NAME, BOTHA REFERRED TO "CAPE TIMES" ARTICLE (REFTEL) WHICH HAD ARGUED THAT DESPITE LAST SENTENCE OF MONDALE PRESS CONFERENCE IN VIENNA, THRUST OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USG POLICY SEEMED TO BE THAT IT WAS UP TO PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF SYSTEM WOULD BEST PROVIDE FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. BOTHA SAID HE WOULD "NOT INSULT" MONDALE BY CHARACTERIZING HIS STATEMENT ABOUT ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE AS A "SLIP OF THE TONGUE." THERE HAD BEEN AMPLE TIME TO "RETRACT OR CLARIFY" STATEMENT BUT THIS HAD NOT BEEN DONE. SOUTH AFRICA MUST PLAN ON BASIS THAT MONDALE MEANT WHAT HE SAID. "THEY PULLED THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER THOSE WHO WANT CHANGE." ARGUING THAT ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE MEANT DESTRUCTION, BOTHA SAID, "AS THE AMERICANS SAY, THERE IS NO WAY, BABY...THERE IS ONE THING WE CANNOT DO: WE CAN NEVER BUY ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE IN ONE POLITICAL ENTITY."

4. ADMITTING THAT "WE FEAR BLACK DOMINATION, THAT IS A FACT AND BASIS OF OUR POLICY," BOTHA SAID US HAD BEEN CHALLENGED TO NAME AN AFRICAN STATE ON WHICH IT COULD MODEL ITSELF AND US HAD REPLIED THAT "ONE INJUSTICE DOES NOT EXCUSE ANOTHER." WARMING TO HIS THEME OF BLACK DOMINATION, BOTHA SAID THERE WAS A SEPARATE, "AFRICAN" CULTURE, AN "AFRICAN" SET OF VALUES. THEY BELIEVED IN A COLLECTIVE SOCIETY. SOUTH AFRICANS (READ

WHITES) PRIZED FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE PRESS AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS - WHERE WERE THESE TO BE FOUND IN THE REST OF AFRICA? AS TO ARGUMENT THAT URBAN AFRICANS WERE "DIFFERENT," BOTHA SAID ONE HAD ONLY TO "LOOK AT THEIR UN AMBASSADORS, LOOK AT THEIR LEADERS." SAYING THAT HE WAS "NOT A RACIST," THAT HE HAD "GREAT SYMPATHY FOR AFRICAN LEADERS," BOTHA SAID: "IF WE HAVE A PEOPLE WHO REPRODUCE AT THE RATE OF 3 PERCENT A YEAR, SO THAT THEIR NET GNP GOES UP BY 1 PERCENT PER YEAR, WHO, IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL, WILL REACH A WESTERN STANDARD OF LIVING IN 300 YEARS, SHOULD WE BE GOVERNED BY SUCH PEOPLE?" REITERATING CHARGE THAT WEST APPLIED "SELECTIVE MORALITY" BOTHA SAID: "IF FOR ONLY ONCE, AMERICANS WOULD ALSO TELL BLACK AFRICA ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS." HE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD NOT AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH ANYTHING LESS THAN ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE.

5. REFERRING TO US OPINION, BOTHA SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANTED "DESTRUCTION" OF SOUTH AFRICA. THOSE HE HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TALKED TO IN US HAD "LISTENED ATTENTIVELY" WHEN HE HAD EXPLAINED SAG POLICY. IT WAS ONLY WHEN THEY WERE SHOWN A MAP OF THE HOMELANDS THAT "THEIR FACES FELL." BOTHA RELATED ANECDOTE, TERMING IT ONLY PART OF SPEECH "OFF THE RECORD." HE SAID HE HAD ONCE TOLD CARTER, MONDALE AND BREZINSKI OF SAG'S DESIRE TO ALLOW EVERYONE FREEDOM OF GOVERN THEMSELVES, TO DO AWAY WITH DISCRIMINATION, TO REACH OUT TO AFRICA, TO "TEACH THEM HOW TO PLOW A FIELD, HOW TO GET 10 BUSHEL OF GRAIN PER HECTARE RATHER THEN FIVE." BREZINSKI REPORTEDLY REPLIED, "MR. AMBASSADOR, I AGREE WITH WHAT YOU SAY BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE PROBLEM, THERE IS NO TOME. YOU ARE IN DANGER OF BEING RUN OVER BY THE LOCOMOTIVE OF HISTORY." BOTHA SAID HE HAD RESPONDED THAT "THERE IS TIME, IF ONLY YOU HAVE THE WILL POWER."

6. COMMENT - BOTHA SPEECH, AT WHICH CONGENOFF PRESENT, WAS PRESENTED IN AN EFFECTIVE IF RATHER FLORID AND IMPASSIONED ORATORICAL STYLE, INTERSPERSED WITH NOT VERY SUBTLE SARCASM. BULK OF SPEECH GIVEN IN ENGLISH WITH OCCASIONAL SWITH TO AFRIKAANS. DESPITE FACT THAT MAJORITY OF THE MORE THAN 180 PERSONS PRESENT REPRESENTED THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS OF CAPE TOWN, AUDIENCE WAS NOTABLY RESPONSIVE AND APPLAUSE AT CONCLUSION OF SPEECH WAS MORE THAN JUST POLITELY ENTHUSIASTIC. SEVERAL JOURNALISTS WHO ARE GENERALLY CRITICAL OF SAG POLICY SPOKE ADMIRINGLY OF AND CONTRASTED BOTHA FAVORABLY WITH OTHER CABINET MINISTERS. HIS IMAGE AS A "VERLIGTE" APPEARS TO REMAIN ENTRENCHED, AT LEAST AMONG MOST OF THE CAPE TOWN MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH ESTATE.BOWDLER

NOTE BY ANALYSIS: DISSEMINATION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MR SCHUMAKER

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